

July 29, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

For months now, I've been watching LightSquared meet challenge after challenge on its way to offering a true national option for wireless communication. I'm a bit of a blog watcher, so I saw on the tech blogs some time ago that the company was not "serious" because it would never get financing, but it did. Then there was the challenge over the satellite, but that was solved.

They said no partners would sign on. But they did. They said financing options did not exist, but they did.

Now this comment is on the ongoing issue over GPS and spectrum. Did anyone think this would be easy? Did anyone think that big companies using that spectrum they did not own would just give up and go away? I've been somewhat amused at the attempts to turn a technical issue into a policy issue, but it's less funny when you're one of the people who needs faster and cheaper Internet.

I'm one of those Americans who could use both. As a freelance writer, I often must "poach" high speed Internet from offices where it exists. In other parts of the country, I'm sure, it would be fast and

affordable and at my home. Alas, that is not true everywhere.

Many of us are exhausted by the current attitudes and gridlock in Washington. We simply want the FCC to make sure the companies involved fix the problem, not tie us up for another 10 years awaiting more competition. Our nation is not even Top 10 in Internet use or speed – where is the sense of urgency the situation demands? Where is the sense of “just get it done” that should drive this debate?

I've seen every nasty trick in the book used on this one, from a company squatting on bandwidth they never bought fighting licensing issues, to a scare tactic campaign waged by a front group.

I hope the FCC sticks to its positions that encourage more and more competition, which will create jobs and improve lives like mine. We need a boost, and the Internet can only be that boost if we continue to improve and innovate, not block new ideas. If this can't be finally worked out, so be it. But until then, LightSquared should receive every consideration possible as they spend private money for what promises to be a very public good.

Yours truly

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